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Hur et al.

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(54) **BACKLIGHT UNIT AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING THE SAME**

USPC 362/293, 612, 608; 349/58, 61-62, 65, 349/69

See application file for complete search history.

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

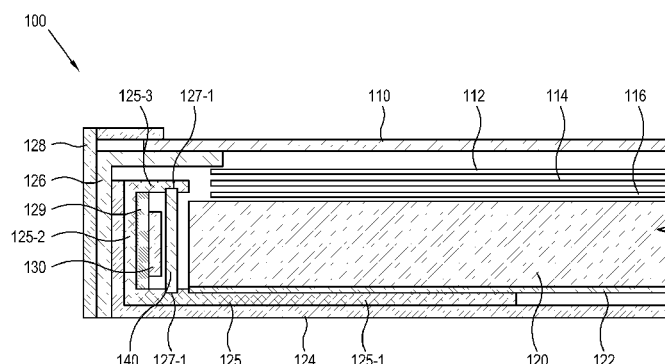
A backlight unit is provided which includes: a light guide plate which guides incident light from a lateral side of the light guide plate toward a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel placed in front of the light guide plate; a light source unit which includes a light source which emits the light and a light source supporting member which supports the light source and is arranged adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate; a supporting frame which is arranged in the backlight unit; a quantum dot (QD) bar which is arranged between the lateral side of the light guide plate and the light source and changes a color of the light emitted from the light source; and a QD-bar fastening unit which fastens the QD bar to at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame.

20 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

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G02F 1/1333 (2006.01)
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(2013.01); **G02B 6/0073** (2013.01);
(Continued)

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G02F 1/133615; G02B 6/0026; G02B 6/0073;
G02B 6/0091



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F21V 8/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(2013.01); **G02F 2001/133317** (2013.01); **G02F**
2001/133614 (2013.01); **Y10T 29/49002**
(2015.01)

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FIG. 1

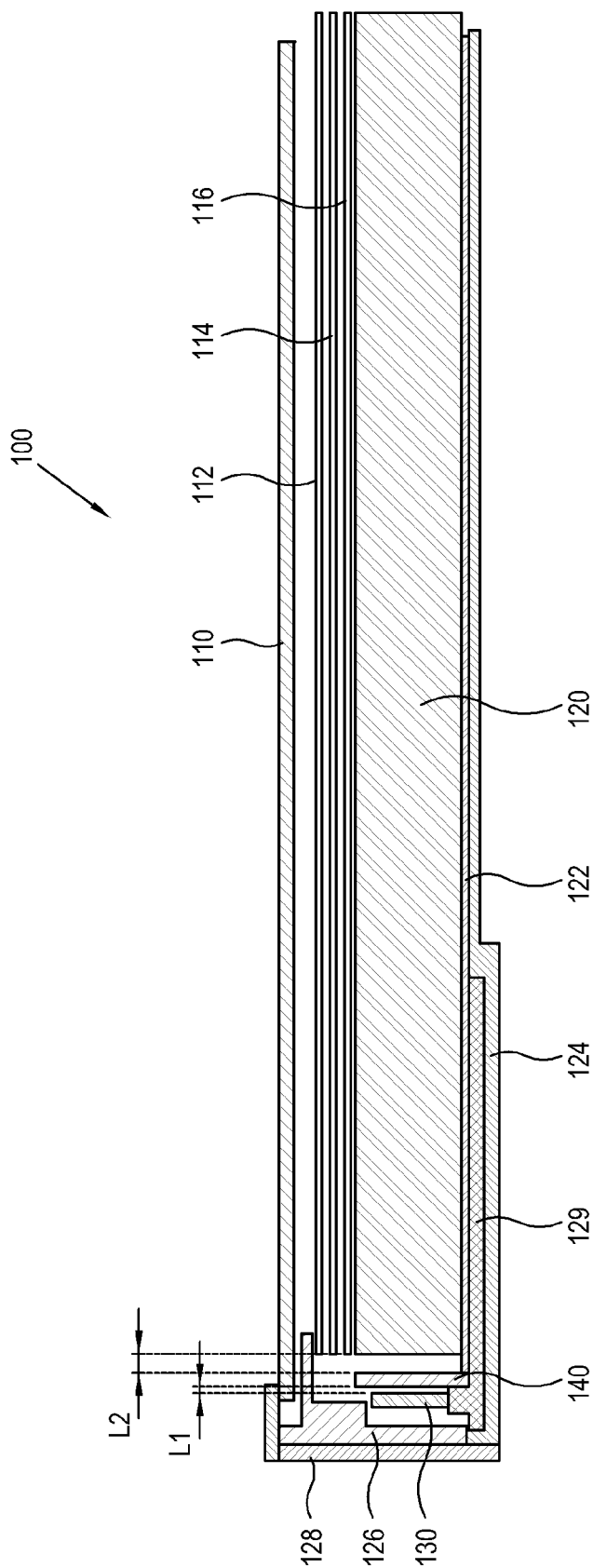


FIG. 2

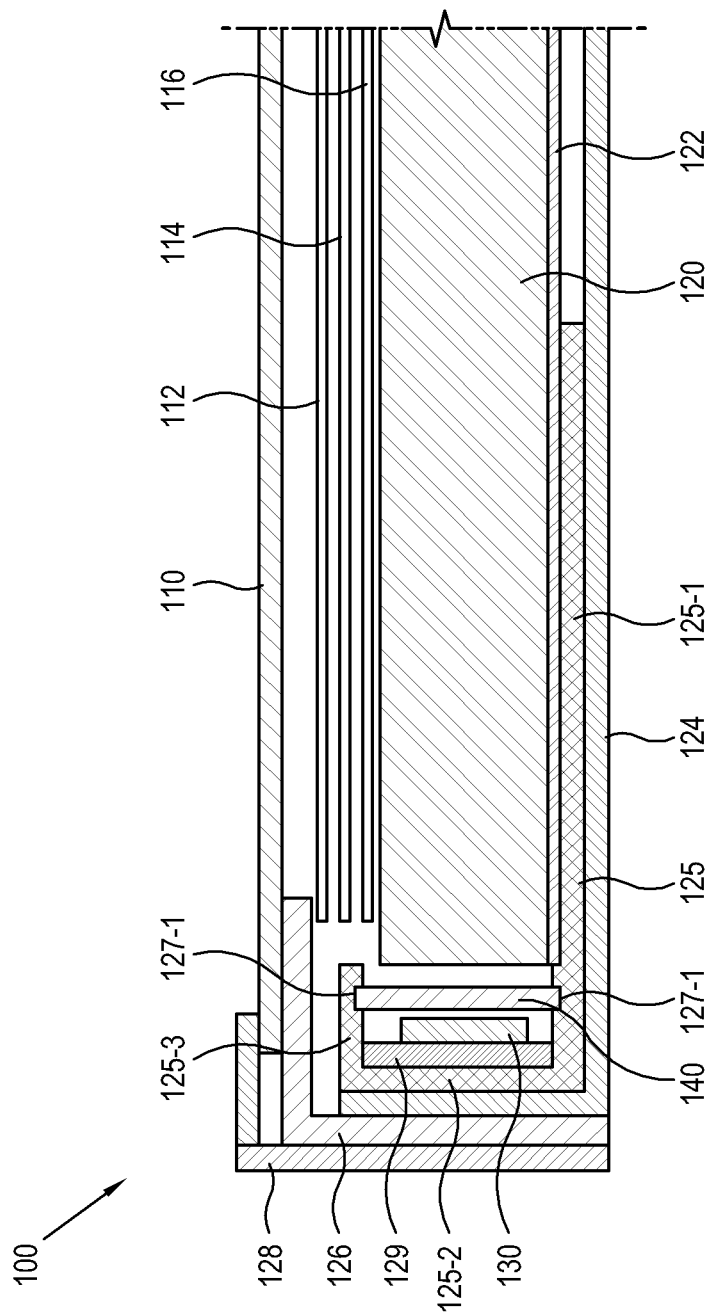


FIG. 4A

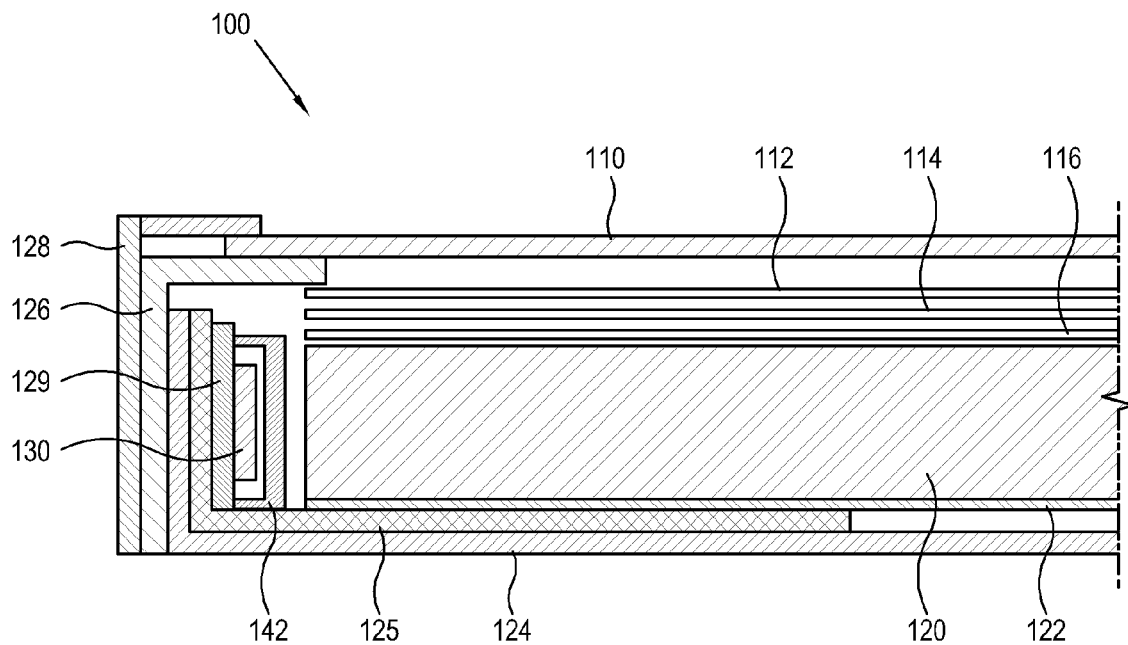


FIG. 4B

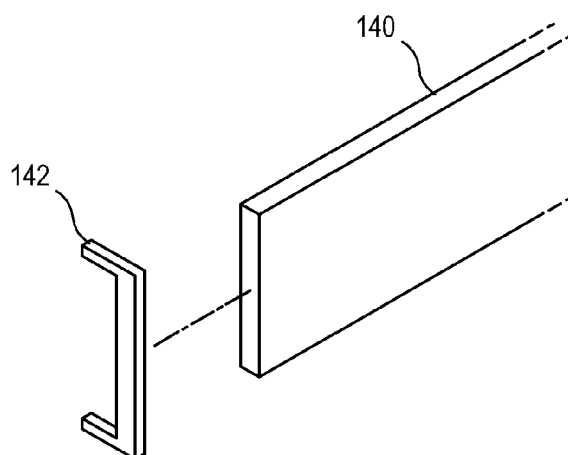


FIG. 5



FIG. 6

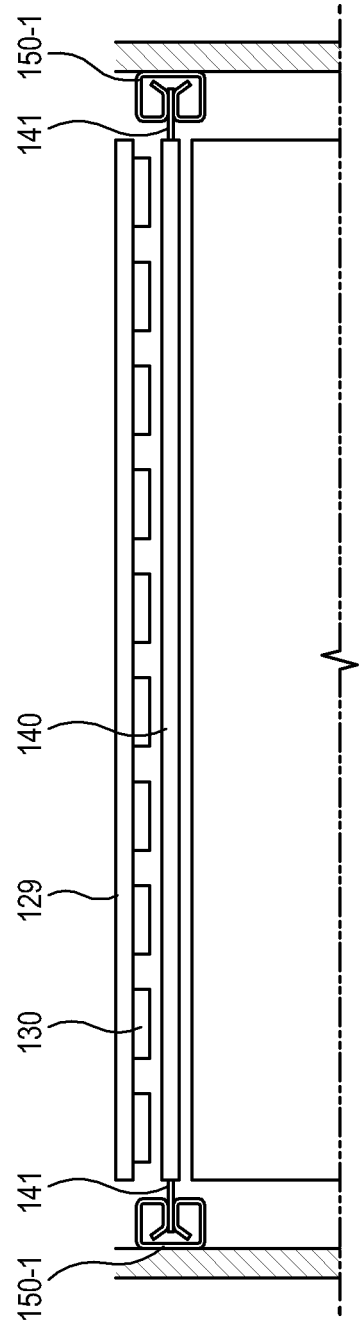


FIG. 8

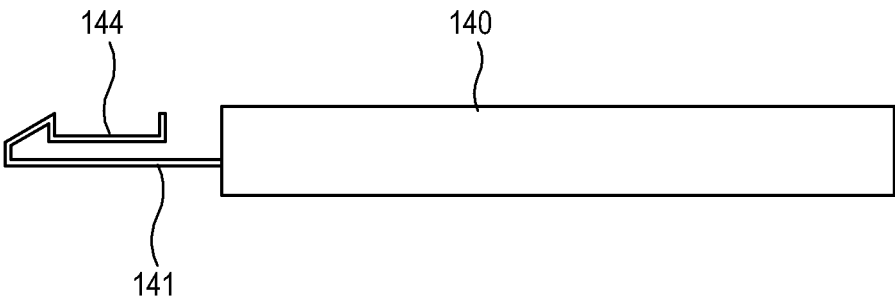


FIG. 10

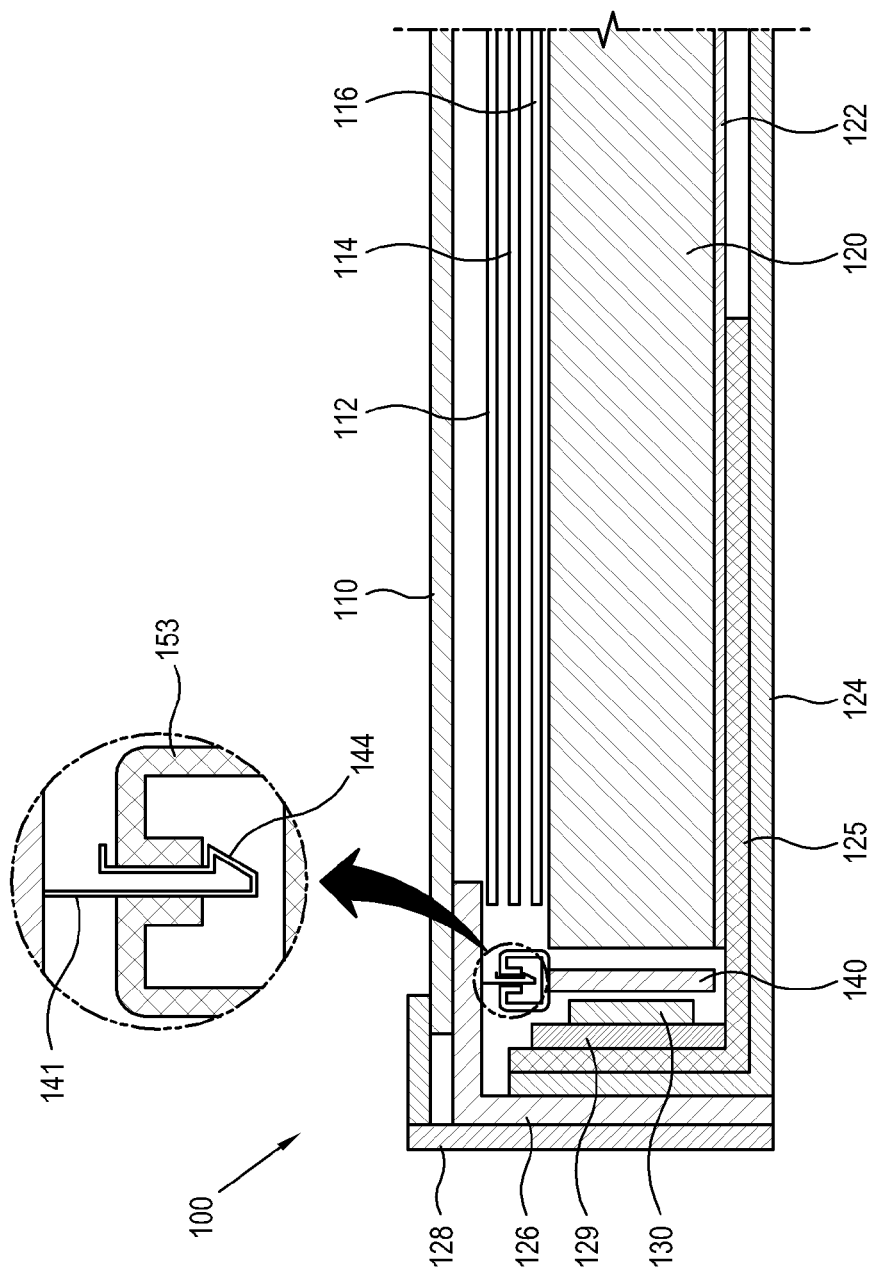


FIG. 11

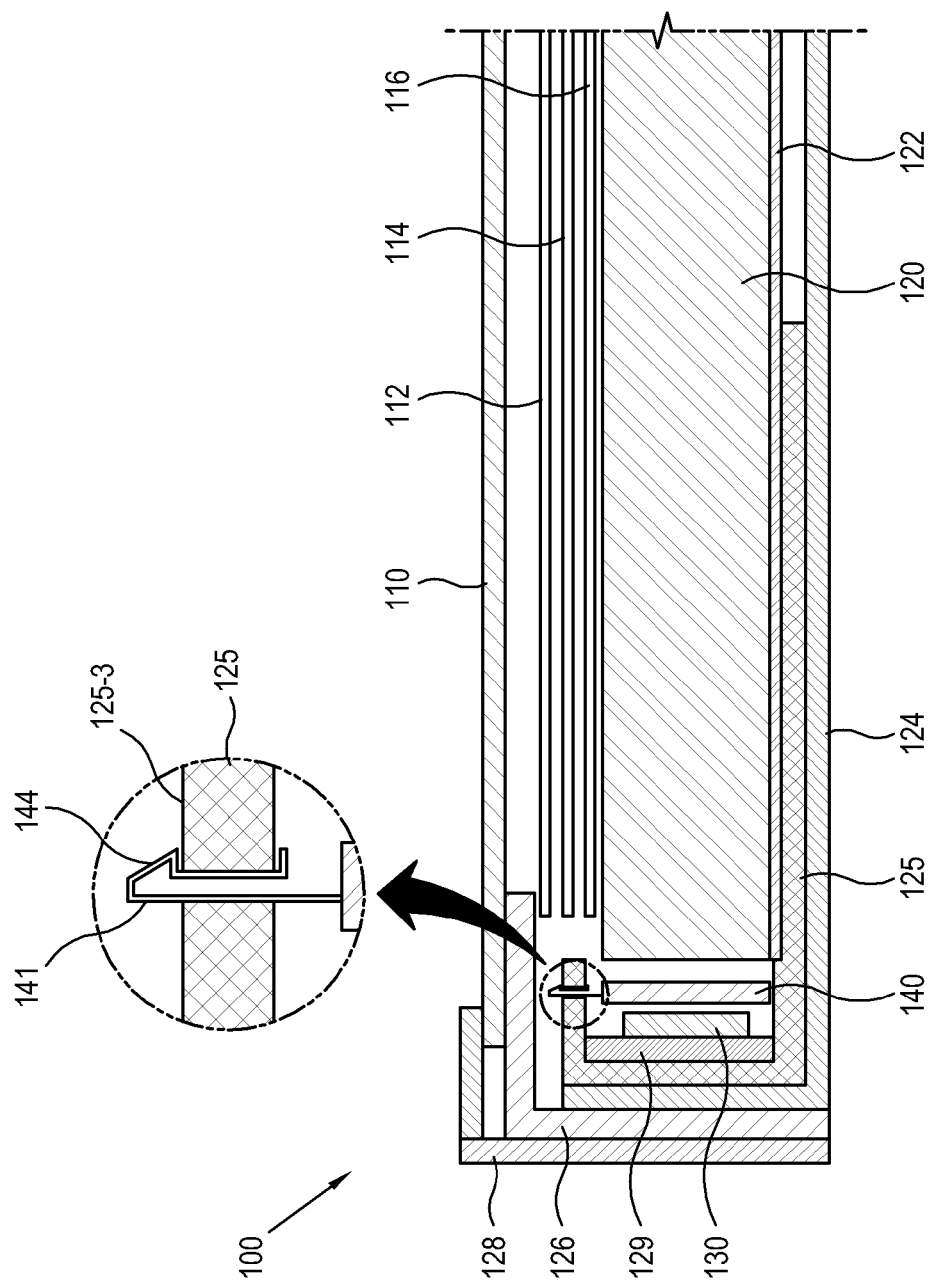


FIG. 12

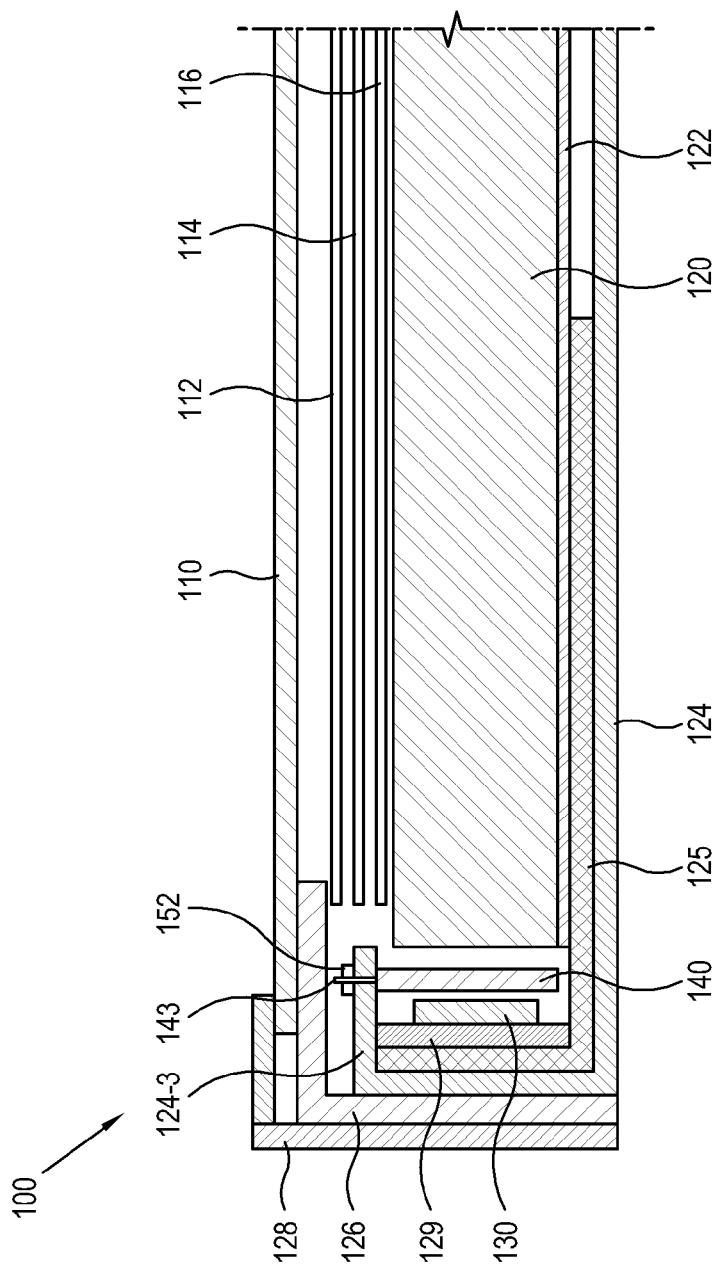


FIG. 13

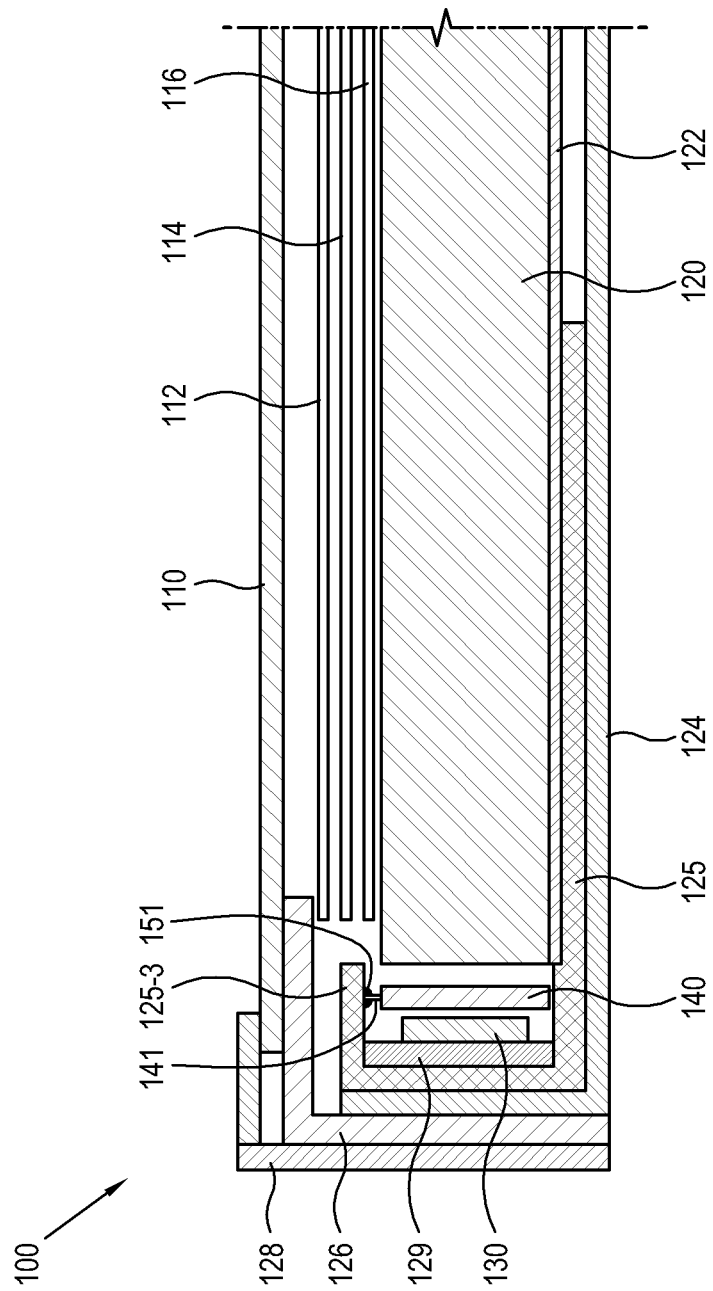


FIG. 14A

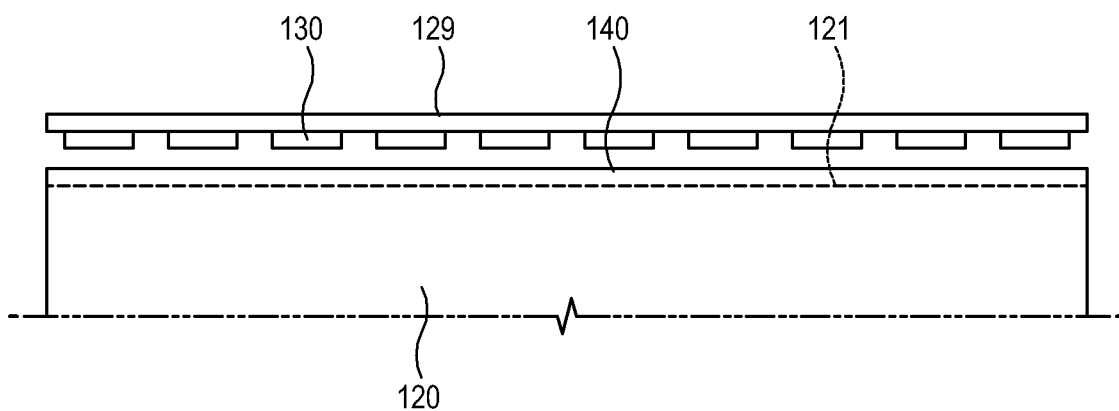


FIG. 14B

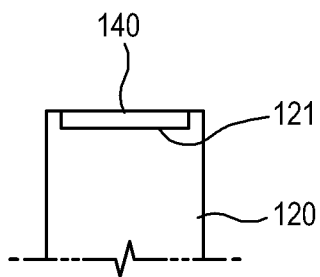
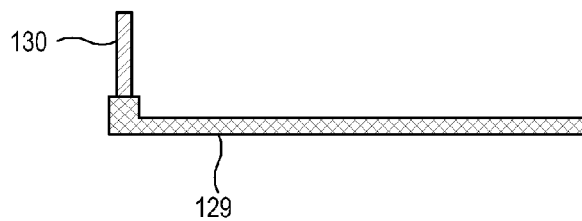
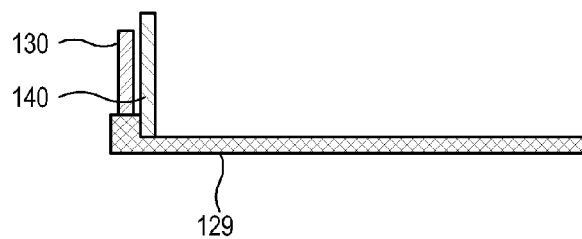


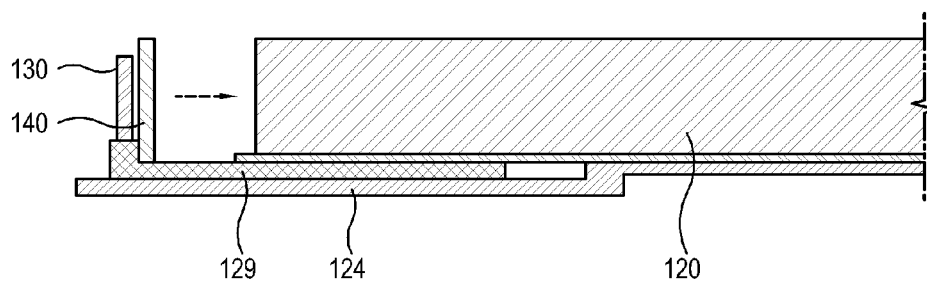
FIG. 16



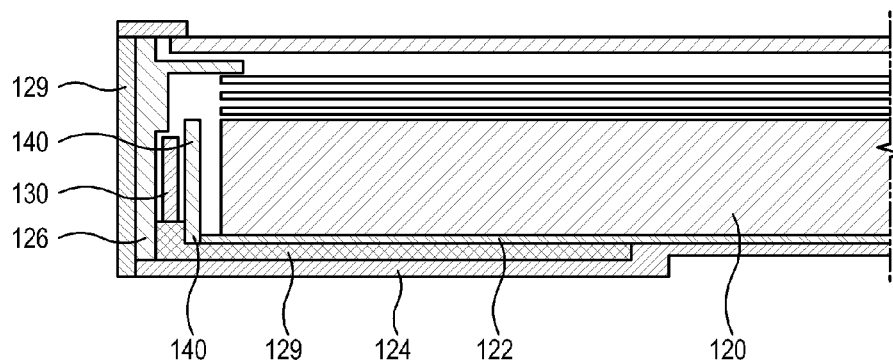
(a)



(b)

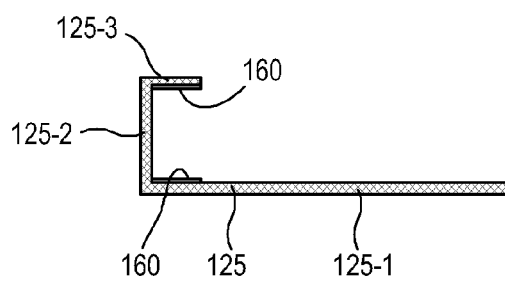


(c)

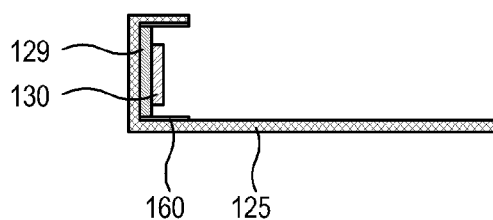


(d)

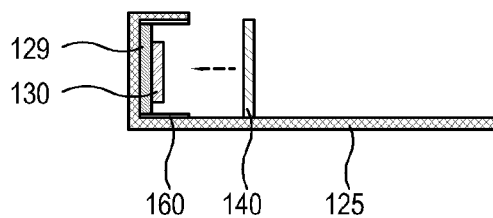
FIG. 17



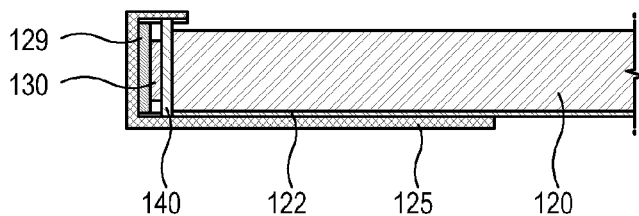
(a)



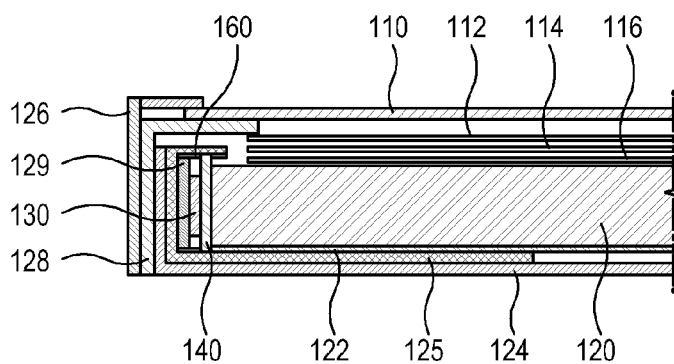
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

FIG. 18
(RELATED ART)

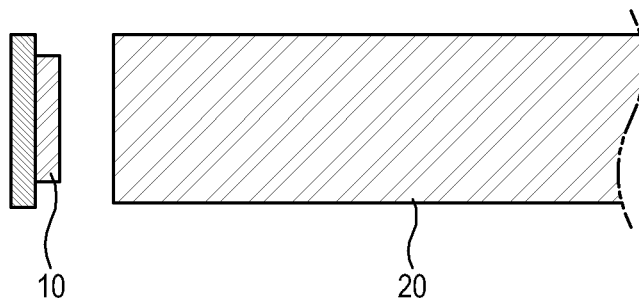
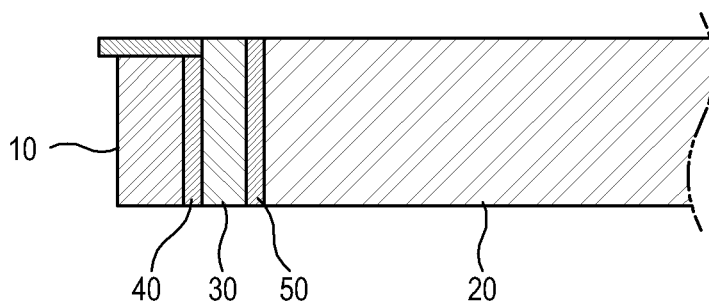


FIG. 19
(RELATED ART)



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BACKLIGHT UNIT AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority from Korean Patent Application No. 10-2011-0085525, filed on Aug. 26, 2011 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

Apparatuses and methods consistent with the exemplary embodiments relate to a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, and more particularly, to a backlight unit employing a quantum dot (QD) bar and a light emitting diode (LED) as a light source, a manufacturing method thereof, and an LCD device having the same.

2. Description of the Related Art

A backlight unit for an LCD device includes light emitting diodes **10** arranged along a lateral side of a light guide plate **20** as shown in FIG. **18**. Light emitted from the LED **10** enters the lateral sides of the light guide plate **20**, propagates to the center of the light guide plate **20** by total reflection, and exits the light guide plate **20** through a front patterned surface, thereby materializing a surface light source.

Usually, white LEDs emitting monochromatic light have been used as the LEDs **10** arranged along the lateral sides of the backlight unit. The white LEDs generally emit white light by using a Blue-chip along with green and red phosphors.

The LEDs **10** used in the related art backlight unit employs a single LED package that emits one color, and therefore their color reproduction is just 75% of a national television system committee (NTSC) area. Also, the color reproduction, efficiency and white coordinate of a panel is susceptible to matching between a peak wavelength of three colors, red, green and blue (R, G, B), of the white LED and a peak wavelength of a color filter for the liquid crystal of the LCD device.

To make up for deterioration in the color reproduction of the white LED used in the related art backlight unit, there has been proposed technology of using a blue LED **10** instead of the white LED and a quantum dot (QD) bar **30** as a light source of the backlight unit, disclosed in Korean Patent Publications No. 10-2011-0068110 and No. 10-2011-0012246.

As shown in FIG. **19**, the QD bar **30** is adhered between the blue LED **10** and the light guide plate **20** by a transparent optical resin layer or an adhesive layer **40**, **50**. However, it is very inconvenient to use the optical resin layer or the adhesive layer **40**, **50** in the adhesion for the QD bar **30**, and thus productivity decreases. Further, the optical resin layer or the adhesive may distort the light emitted from the LED and the QD bar.

Also, heat generated by the LED is transferred to the light guide plate **20** via the optical resin layer or the adhesive layer, and therefore the light guide plate **20** is twisted, thereby having an effect on the adhered QD bar **30** which damages the QD bar **30**.

SUMMARY

Accordingly, one or more exemplary embodiments provide a backlight unit which is excellent in color reproduction, and an LCD device having the same.

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Another exemplary embodiment is to provide a backlight unit having a structure in which heat generated from an LED is not transferred to a light guide plate, and an LCD device having the same.

5 Still another exemplary embodiment is to provide a backlight unit to which a QD bar can be easily fastened, and a manufacturing method thereof.

Yet another exemplary embodiment is to provide a backlight unit having a structure for improving workability and increasing productivity, and a manufacturing method thereof.

10 Still another exemplary embodiment is to provide a backlight unit having a structure in which light emitted by an LED is transferred to a light guide plate without distortion, and an LCD device having the same.

15 The foregoing and/or other aspects may be achieved by providing a backlight unit including: a light guide plate which guides incident light from a lateral side of the light guide plate toward a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel placed in front of the light guide plate; a light source unit which comprises a light source which emits the light and a light source supporting member which supports the light source and is arranged adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate; a supporting frame which is arranged in the backlight unit; a quantum dot (QD) bar which is arranged between the lateral side of the light guide plate and the light source and changes a color of the light emitted from the light source; and a QD-bar fastening unit which fastens the QD bar to at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame.

The QD bar may be spaced apart from at least one of the light guide plate and the light source.

The light source may include a blue light emitting diode (LED).

The light source supporting member may include a printed circuit board (PCB) mounted with the light source.

25 The supporting frame may include at least one of a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

The at least one of the heat sinking plate, the light guide plate, and the middle molding part comprises a bending end part which extends from the lateral end of the backlight unit toward the lateral side of the light guide plate.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include an adhesive.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a groove which is formed in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame and to which the QD bar is fitted therein.

50 The QD-bar fastening unit may include a connecting member which connects the QD bar to the light source supporting member.

The connecting member fastens the QD bar to the light source supporting member such that the QD bar is separated from the light source supporting member so that the light source is accommodated between the light source supporting member and the QD bar.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a fastening pin coupled to the QD bar; and a socket provided on at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and is coupled to the fastening pin.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a socket coupled to the QD bar; and a fastening pin provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and is coupled to the socket.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a fastening pin which is coupled to the QD bar and has an elastic projection;

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and a fastening part which is provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and which accommodates and is coupled to the elastic projection.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a fastening pin which is provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and which has an elastic projection; and a fastening part which is coupled to the QD bar, and which accommodates and is coupled to the elastic projection.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a bolt which is coupled to the QD bar; and a welding part which couples at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame to the fastening pin.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a fastening pin which is coupled to the QD bar; and a welding part which couples at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame to the fastening pin.

The QD-bar fastening unit may include a groove formed at a lateral end of the backlight unit and which receives the QD bar inserted therein.

Another aspect may be achieved by providing a backlight unit including: a light guide plate which guides incident light from a lateral side of the light guide plate toward a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel placed in front of the light guide plate; a light source unit which comprises a light source which emits the light and a light source supporting member which supports the light source and is arranged adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate; a quantum dot (QD) bar which is arranged between the lateral side of the light guide plate and the light source and changes a color of the light emitted from the light source; and a pressing member which is fastened while pressing the QD bar toward the lateral side of the light guide plate.

The pressing member may include at least one of a light source supporting frame, a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

Still another aspect may be achieved by providing a method of manufacturing a backlight unit, the method including arranging a light guide plate behind a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel; preparing a light source unit by arranging a light source onto a light source supporting member and fastening a quantum dot (QD) bar to the light source supporting member; arranging the light source unit to a lateral side of the light guide plate so that the QD bar is arranged between the light source and the light guide plate; and fastening the light source unit to a supporting frame arranged in the backlight unit.

The supporting frame may include at least one of a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

Yet another aspect may be achieved by providing a method of manufacturing a backlight unit, the method including arranging a light guide plate behind a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel; arranging a quantum dot (QD) bar at a lateral side of the light guide plate; arranging a light source unit comprising a light source such that the QD bar is arranged between the light source and the light guide plate; pressing the QD bar toward the lateral side of the light guide plate by a pressing member so that the QD bar is adhered to the lateral

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side of the light guide plate; and fastening the pressing member to a supporting frame arranged in the backlight unit.

The pressing member may include at least one of a light source supporting frame which supports the light source, a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

The pressing member may include a QD-bar guide groove extended in a direction perpendicular to the lateral side of the light guide plate.

The pressing member may include a QD-bar guide groove extended in a lengthwise direction of the QD bar.

Still another aspect may be achieved by providing a liquid crystal display (LCD) device including the foregoing backlight unit; and a LCD panel which comprises a liquid crystal layer, a thin film transistor layer arranged between the liquid crystal layer and the light guide plate of the backlight unit and which controls light passing through the liquid crystal layer, and a color filter layer which materializes color of light passed through the liquid crystal layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and/or other aspects will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the exemplary embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a first exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a second exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a third exemplary embodiment;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic views of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a fourth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a view showing a QD bar with a fastening pin according to an exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 6 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit employing the QD bar shown in FIG. 5 according to a fifth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 7 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a sixth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 8 is a view showing a QD bar with another fastening pin according to an exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 9 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit employing the QD bar shown in FIG. 8 according to a seventh exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit employing the QD bar shown in FIG. 8 according to an eighth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 11 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit employing the QD bar shown in FIG. 8 according to a ninth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 12 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a tenth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 13 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to an eleventh exemplary embodiment;

FIGS. 14A and 14B are schematic views of an LCD device having a backlight unit and a light guide plate according to a twelfth exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 15 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a thirteenth exemplary embodiment;

FIGS. 16(a) to 16(d) are a process view of a manufacturing method of a backlight unit according to an exemplary embodiment;

FIGS. 17(a) to 17(e) are a process view of a manufacturing method of a backlight unit according to another exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 18 is a schematic view of major parts taken from a related backlight unit; and

FIG. 19 is a schematic view of major parts taken from a related art backlight unit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Below, exemplary embodiments will be described in detail with reference to accompanying drawings. For the convenience of description, elements having no direct relationship to the exemplary embodiments are omitted for clarity, and like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. Here, the “rear” refers to a direction where a light guide plate 120 is placed in an LCD panel 110, and the “up,” “down,” “left” and “right” are defined with respect to the front of the LCD panel 110.

As shown in FIG. 1, an LCD device 100 includes an LCD panel 110 and a backlight unit. The backlight unit includes a dual brightness enhance film (DBEF) sheet 112, a prism sheet 114, a diffuser sheet 116, a light guide plate 120, a reflection sheet 122, an LED 130 and a QD bar 140 arranged in sequence on the rear of the LCD panel 110.

In the LCD panel 110, a nematic liquid crystal is interposed between two sheets of glass, and counter electrodes with a thin film transistor are arranged on the two sheets of glass. An electric field applied to the counter electrodes changes a twisted angle of a liquid crystal material interposed between the glass substrates, and adjusts penetration of light emitted from the rear.

The DBEF sheet 112 serves to reduce loss of light exiting from the prism sheet 114 to be described later.

The prism sheet 114 changes side light into front light with regard to the light passed through the diffuser sheet 116 to be described later, and concentrates radiated light, thereby increasing brightness.

The diffuser sheet 116 serves to diffuse the light exiting the light guide plate 120 and make the light uniform. For example, the diffuser sheet 116 may be made of polyester or polycarbonate.

The light guide plate 120 serves to make the light entered from LED 130 be materialized into uniform surface light. For example, the light guide plate 120 may be made of an acrylic mold.

The reflection sheet 122 is placed behind the light guide plate 120, and reflects light scattered from the light guide plate 120, the DBEF sheet 112, the prism sheet 114 and the diffuser sheet 116 toward the front of the LCD device 100.

The LED 130 is placed at lateral sides of the light guide plate 120 while being attached to a printed circuit board 129. The LED 130 may employ a blue LED.

The backlight unit as shown in FIG. 1 is not a direct type where the light source unit 129, 130 is placed behind the light guide plate 120 but an edge type where the light source unit 129, 130 is placed at the sides of the light guide plate 120. Also, the light source unit 129, 130 is a side-view type where the printed circuit board 129 is parallel with the light guide plate 120 and the light is emitted at a side to the light guide plate 120.

The QD bar 140 is arranged between the LED 130 and the side of the light guide plate 120 and is a bar in which quantum dot fluorescent substance is injected. The quantum dot is a

particle that generates fluorescent light that is much stronger than that of a general fluorescent material within a narrow wavelength range and forms a core with nano-sized II-IV semiconductor particles (e.g., CdSe, CdTe, CdS, etc).

For example, the QD bar 140 is arranged between the blue LED 130 and the light guide plate 120 and serves to convert blue light from the blue LED 130 into white light.

As shown in FIG. 16(b), the QD bar 140 in this exemplary embodiment is adhered to the printed circuit board 129 supporting the LED 130 by an adhesive. Since the QD bar 140 is attached to the printed circuit board 129 that is a light source supporting member for supporting the LED 130, it can be conveniently and easily fastened thereto. That is, as shown in FIG. 16(c), a manufacturing work is simple because the QD bar 140 together with the LED 130 is attached to the printed circuit board 129 and then the QD bar 140 and the LED 130 are arranged adjacent to each other in a proximity of a lateral side of the light guide plate 120.

Also, if the QD bar 140 is fastened as described above, there is no medium such as an adhesive between the LED 130 and the QD bar 140 and between the QD bar 140 and the light guide plate 120, and therefore there is no distortion of light.

The QD bar 140 may be arranged respectively leaving spaces L1 and L2 (i.e., air gaps) from the LED 130 and the light guide plate 120. Thus, if the QD bar 140 is spaced apart from the LED 130 and from the light guide plate 120, heat generated from the LED 130 cannot be transferred to the light guide plate 120.

Below, operations of a backlight unit according to a first exemplary embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 1.

The blue light emitted from the blue LED 130 is converted into the white light while passing through the adjacent QD bar 140, and enters the lateral side of the light guide plate 120 that is adjacent to the LED 130/QD bar 140 assembly. The light entering the lateral side of the light guide plate 120 exits the light guide plate 120 through a front patterned surface thereof, thereby materializing a surface light source. Surface light is transferred to the LCD panel 110 via the diffuser sheet 116, the prism sheet 114 and the DBEF sheet 112.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a second exemplary embodiment. The QD bar 140 is placed between the LED 130 and the light guide plate 120. In this exemplary embodiment, the QD bar 140 is fastened to a heat sinking plate 125 arranged on the rear of the printed circuit board 129 used as a light source supporting member. Furthermore, the heat sinking plate 125 extends along the rear of the light guide plate 120 and the reflection sheet 122. Here, the heat sinking plate 125 is to radiate heat from the LED 130.

As shown in FIG. 2, the heat sink 125 to which the QD bar 140 is fastened includes a main body part 125-1 which extends past the lateral side of the light guide plate 120 toward an outskirt supporting frame 128 and in parallel with the rear of the light guide plate 120, an erect part 125-2 bent from the main body part which extends in parallel with the lateral side of the light guide plate 120, and a bending end part 125-3 which is bent from the erect part, extends toward the light guide plate 120 in parallel to the main body part, and is spaced apart from the main body part by a length of the erect part.

A space formed by the main body part 125-1, the erect part 125-2 and the bending end part 125-3 of the heat sinking plate 125 accommodates the light source 130, the light source supporting member 129 and the QD bar 140.

The bending end part 125-3 and the main body part 125-1 of the heat sinking plate 125 are opposite to each other, and the opposite parts are respectively formed with grooves 127-1

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as a QD-bar fastening unit. The QD bar **140** may be fitted into and fastened to the grooves **127-1** opposite to each other. The above fastening method of fitting the QD bar **140** into the grooves **127-1** of the heat sinking plate **125** is nothing but an example. Alternatively, the QD bar **140** may be supported on the heat sinking plate **125** by various methods. The groove **127-1** of the heat sinking plate **125** may be provided in either of the bending end part **125-3** or the main body part **125-1**.

According to the second exemplary embodiment, the QD bar **140**, the light source unit **129**, **130** and the heat sinking plate **125** are assembled as a single body, and it is thus convenient and easy to arrange them adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. Alternatively, the QD bar **140** may be fastened after previously arranging the light source unit **129**, **130** to the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The QD bar **140** is arranged within the assembly such that spaces (i.e., air gaps) are present between itself and the LED **130** and itself and the light guide plate **120**.

The light source unit **129**, **130** shown in FIG. 2 is a top-view type where the printed circuit board **129** used as the light source supporting member is arranged in parallel with the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The printed circuit board **129** may be supported by the erect part **125-2** of the heat sinking plate **125**. Of course, the light source unit **129**, **130** the side-view type may be used as shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a third exemplary embodiment. The QD bar **140** may be fastened to the heat sinking plate **125** and a light guide plate supporting frame **124**.

The light guide plate supporting frame **124** may include a main body part **124-1** that is parallel with the rear of the light guide plate **120** and extends past of the lateral side of the light guide plate **120** toward an outskirt supporting frame **128**, an erect part **124-2** that is bent from the main body part **124-1** and extends in parallel with the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**, and a bending end part **124-3** that is bent from the erect part **124-2** and extends toward the light guide plate **120**.

The heat sinking plate **125** is placed behind the light guide plate **120** and arranged between the light guide plate **120** and the light guide plate supporting frame **124**. At least a main body part **125-1** of the heat sinking plate **125** is opposite to the bending end part **124-3** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124**, and an erect part **125-2** of the heat sinking plate **125** is disposed between the erect part **124-2** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124** and the light source supporting member **129**.

The bending end part **124-3** of light guide plate supporting frame **124** and the main body part **125-1** of the heat sinking plate **125**, which are opposite to each other, include a groove **127-2** as the QD-bar fastening unit into which the QD bar **140** can be fitted. If the heat sinking plate **125** has no part opposite to the bending end part **124-3** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124** or there is no heat sinking plate **125**, the groove **127-2** may be provided in the main body part **124-1** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124**. The groove **127-2** to which the QD bar **140** is fitted may be provided in either of the bending end part **124-2** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124** or the heat sinking plate **125**.

According to the third exemplary embodiment, the QD bar **140** may be provided in the light guide plate **120** as being previously manufactured together with the light source unit **129**, **130**, the heat sinking plate **125** and the light guide plate supporting plate **124**. Also, the QD bar **140** may be fitted to the groove **127-2** provided in at least one of the heat sinking plate **125** and the light guide plate supporting frame after the light source unit **129**, **130**, the heat sinking plate **125** and the

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light guide plate supporting frame **124** are first arranged on the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic views of an LCD device having a backlight unit according to a fourth exemplary embodiment. The QD bar **140** may be fastened to a light source supporting member **129** supporting the LED **130** by a connecting members **142** (only one shown) attached as a fastening means to the opposite ends of the QD bar **140**. The connecting members **142** may be attached to the QD bar **140** by an adhesive, and may be attached to other sides of the QD bar **140** as well as the opposite ends.

The QD bar **140** may be fastened to the heat sinking plate **125** or the light guide plate supporting frame **124** instead of being fastened to the light source supporting member **129**.

FIGS. 5 and 6 are schematic views of a backlight unit according to a fifth exemplary embodiment. As shown in FIG. 5, the backlight unit may include a fastening pins **141** attached as the QD-bar fastening unit to the opposite ends of the QD bar **140** and which extend lengthwise. The supporting frame adjacent to the opposite ends of the QD bar **140**, i.e., the supporting frame arranged on the top and bottom sides adjacent to the lateral sides of the light guide plate where the light source unit **129**, **130** is placed is attached with a socket **150-1**, or other type of receptacle, to which the fastening pin **141** is fitted. The socket **150-1** is provided in the form of a receptacle and internally includes two engaged elastic pieces. Alternatively, the socket **150-1** may have various coupling structures such as a latch lock, etc.

The fastening pin **141** may be fitted into the socket **150-1** in a lengthwise direction of the QD bar **140**. At this time, it may be difficult to insert the fastening pin **141** in the lengthwise direction if an inner space is narrow. Thus, the fastening pin **141** may be inserted in the socket **150-1** in a direction of penetrating into or out of the drawings. If the socket's mouth for the fastening pin is differently arranged, the QD bar **140** may be inserted in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction.

FIG. 7 is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to a sixth exemplary embodiment. The QD bar **140** is provided with a fastening pin **141** extended perpendicularly to the lengthwise direction at one side.

Adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**, the light source unit **129**, **130**, the heat sinking plate **125**, the light guide plate supporting frame **124**, a middle molding unit **126**, and an outskirt supporting frame **128** are arranged in sequence.

Each of the middle molding unit **126** and the outskirt supporting frame **128** includes a lateral part which extends in parallel with the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**, and a front part bent from the lateral part and which extends toward the light guide plate **120** in parallel with the light guide plate **120**. As shown in FIG. 7, the LCD panel **110** is secured by being fitted between the front part of the middle molding unit **126** and the front part of the outskirt supporting frame **128**.

The front part of the middle molding unit **126** is internally attached with a receptacle socket **153** to which the fastening pin **141** is fitted.

The fastening pin **141** may be fitted to the socket **153** in a lengthwise direction of the fastening fin **141**, i.e., in a direction from bottom to top as seen from the drawings. At this time, it may be difficult to insert the fastening pin **141** if an inner space is narrow. Thus, the fastening pin **141** may be inserted in the socket **150-1** in a direction of penetrating the drawings. If the socket's mouth for the fastening pin **141** is differently arranged, the QD bar **140** may be inserted in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction.

The heat sinking plate **125** is positioned opposite to the socket **153** and may be provided with the groove **127-2**.

One side of the QD bar **140** may be fastened by fitting the fastening pin **141** to the socket arranged in the front part of the middle molding unit **126**, and the other side may be fastened by fitting the QD bar **140** itself to the groove **127-2** of the heat sinking plate **125**. Alternatively, the QD bar **140** may be fastened by only coupling between the fastening pin **141** and the socket **153**. Also, the QD bar **140** may be fastened by only fitting the other side to the groove **127-2** of the heat sinking plate **125**.

FIG. **8** is a view showing the QD bar **140** of FIG. **5** with another fastening pin **141** according to an exemplary embodiment, in which the fastening pin **141** may include an elastic projection **144**.

FIG. **9** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to a seventh exemplary embodiment. The fastening pin **141** attached to the QD bar **140** includes the elastic projection **144** shown in FIG. **8**, and may be fitted to the socket **153** attached to the front part of the middle molding unit **126**. Such a structure makes the QD bar **140** be more firmly fastened. Accordingly, it is possible to stably maintain the fastening of the QD bar **140** without the fitting based on the groove **127-2** of the heat sinking plate **125** as described in the sixth exemplary embodiment.

FIG. **10** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to an eighth exemplary embodiment. In this exemplary embodiment, in contrast to the seventh exemplary embodiment, the fastening pin **141** is attached to the front part of the middle molding part **126**, and the socket **153** is attached to the QD bar **140**.

FIG. **11** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to a ninth exemplary embodiment. In this exemplary embodiment, the QD bar **141** is provided with the fastening pin **141** having the elastic projection **144**.

The heat sinking plate **125** includes the bending end part **125-3** extended toward the light guide plate **120** at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The bending end part **125-3** of the heat sinking plate **125** includes a through hole to which the fastening pin **141** is fitted. The through hole may be formed in the bending end part of the light source supporting member **129** which is bent to extend toward the light guide plate **120** at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**, the bending end part **124-3** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124**, and the bending end part of the middle molding part **126** as well as that of the heat sinking plate **125**.

FIG. **12** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to a tenth exemplary embodiment. In this exemplary embodiment, the QD bar **141** is provided with the fastening pin **141** having a bolt **143**. The light guide plate supporting frame **124** includes the bending end part **124-3** which extends toward the light guide plate **120** at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The bending end part **124-3** of the light guide plate supporting frame **124** includes a through hole in which the bolt **143** of the fastening pin **131** is inserted.

The QD bar **140** may be fastened by inserting and penetrating the bolt **143** of the fastening pin **141** into the through hole of the bending end part of the light guide plate supporting frame **124**, and then fastening the bolt **143** with a nut **152**.

FIG. **13** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to an eleventh exemplary embodiment. In this exemplary embodiment, the QD bar **140** is provided with the fastening pin **141**. The heat sinking plate **125** includes the bending end part **125-3** which extends towards the light guide plate **120** at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The fastening pin **141** of the QD bar **140** may be directly soldered or welded to the bending end part **12-3** of the heat sinking plate **125**.

FIGS. **14A** and **14B** are schematic views of a backlight unit according to a twelfth exemplary embodiment. The light guide plate **120** includes a groove **121** at its lateral side, in which the QD bar **140** is inserted. The QD bar **140** itself is fitted and fastened to the groove **121** formed at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**.

FIG. **15** is a schematic view of a backlight unit according to a thirteenth exemplary embodiment. The QD bar **140** is closely adhered and fastened between the light source unit **129**, **130** and the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. Below, a method of adhering and fastening the QD bar **140** will be described with reference to FIG. **17**.

First, the heat sinking plate **125** includes the main body part **125-1** which is configured to extend past of the lateral side of the light guide plate in parallel with the rear of the light guide plate **120**, the erect part **125-2** which is bent from the main body part **125-1** and extends in parallel with the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**, and the bending end part **125-3** which is bent from the erect part **125-2** and extends toward the light guide plate **120** at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. At this time, the heat sinking plate **125** may include a predetermined space formed by the main body part **125-1**, the erect part **125-2** and the bending end part **12-3**. Also, the bending end part **125-3** and the main body part **125-1** of the heat sinking plate **125** may be formed with a QD-bar guide groove **160**.

The QD-bar guide groove **160** may be formed to extend in a lengthwise direction of the QD bar, or may be formed to extend in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the QD bar as shown in FIG. **17**.

Next, the light source unit **129**, **130** and the QD bar **140** are sequentially inserted in the predetermined space of the heat sinking plate **125**. At this time, the inserted light source unit **129**, **130** and heat sinking plate **125** may be adhered and fastened to the heat sinking plate **125** within the predetermined space by an adhesive.

Then, the heat sinking plate **125**, including the light source unit **129**, **130**, and the QD bar **140** are arranged at the lateral side of the light guide plate **120** and pressed. Consequently, the heat sinking plate **125**, the light source unit **129**, **130** and the QD bar **140** are closely adjoined to the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. In this pressed state, if the heat sinking plate **125** is fastened to the adjacent light guide plate supporting frame **124** or to the middle molding part **126**, the QD bar **140** is fastened without any separate QD-bar fastening unit. No adhesive layer is used between the LED **30** and the QD bar **140**, or between the QD bar **140** and the light guide plate **120**, thus preventing light distortion caused by adhesive layers.

In FIG. **17**, the heat sinking plate **125** is used as a pressing member for pressing the QD bar **140** toward the lateral side of the light guide plate **120**. The pressing member may be the light source supporting member **129**, the light guide plate supporting frame **124** or the middle molding part **126** as well as the heat sinking plate **125**.

Although a few exemplary embodiments have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in these exemplary embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A backlight unit comprising:

a light guide plate which guides incident light from a lateral side of the light guide plate toward a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel placed in front of the light guide plate; a blue light source unit which comprises a blue light source which emits a blue light and a light source supporting

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member which supports the blue light source and is arranged adjacent to the lateral side of the light guide plate;

a supporting frame which is arranged in the backlight unit;

a quantum dot (QD) bar which is arranged between the lateral side of the light guide plate and the blue light source, and converts a color of the blue light emitted from the blue light source to a white light; and

a QD-bar fastening unit which fastens the QD bar to at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame,

wherein the light source supporting member and the supporting frame cannot be moved,

wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises recessed portions of at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame.

2. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD bar is spaced apart from at least one of the light guide plate and the blue light source.

3. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the blue light source comprises a blue light emitting diode (LED).

4. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the light source supporting member comprises a printed circuit board (PCB) mounted with the blue light source thereon.

5. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the supporting frame comprises at least one of a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the blue light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

6. The backlight unit according to claim 5, wherein the at least one of the heat sinking plate, the light guide plate, and the middle molding part comprises a bending end part which extends from the lateral end of the backlight unit toward the lateral side of the light guide plate.

7. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises an adhesive.

8. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises a groove which is formed in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame and to which the QD bar is fitted therein.

9. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises a connecting member which connects the QD bar to the light source supporting member.

10. The backlight unit according to claim 9, wherein the connecting member fastens the QD bar to the light source supporting member such that the QD bar is separated from the light source supporting member so that the blue light source is accommodated between the light source supporting member and the QD bar.

11. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises:

a fastening pin which is coupled to the QD bar; and
a socket which is provided on at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and is coupled to the fastening pin.

12. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises:

a socket which is coupled to the QD bar; and
a fastening pin which is provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and is coupled to the socket.

13. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises:

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a fastening pin which is coupled to the QD bar and has an elastic projection; and

a fastening part which is provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and which accommodates and is coupled to the elastic projection.

14. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises:

a fastening pin which is provided in at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame, and which has an elastic projection; and

a fastening part which is coupled to the QD bar, and which accommodates and is coupled to the elastic projection.

15. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises:

a bolt which is coupled to the QD bar; and

a nut which is fastened to the bolt with at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame interposed between the nut and the bolt.

16. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises

a fastening pin which is coupled to the QD bar; and

a welding part which couples at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame to the fastening pin.

17. The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises a groove formed at a lateral end of the backlight unit and which receives the QD bar inserted therein.

18. A method of manufacturing a backlight unit, the method comprising:

arranging a light guide plate behind a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel;

preparing a light source unit by arranging a blue light source onto a light source supporting member and fastening a quantum dot (QD) bar to the light source supporting member, wherein the quantum dot (QD) bar converts a color of the blue light emitted from the blue light source to a white light;

arranging the light source unit to a lateral side of the light guide plate so that the QD bar is arranged between the blue light source and the light guide plate; and

fastening the light source unit to a supporting frame arranged in the backlight unit,

wherein the light source supporting member and the supporting frame cannot be moved,

wherein the QD-bar fastening unit comprises recessed portions of at least one of the light source supporting member and the supporting frame.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the supporting frame comprises at least one of a heat sinking plate which radiates heat from the blue light source, a light guide plate supporting frame which supports the light guide plate, and a middle molding part which extends along a lateral end of the backlight unit, between a front and a rear of the backlight unit.

20. A liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising:
the backlight unit according to claim 1;

a LCD panel which comprises a liquid crystal layer, a thin film transistor layer arranged between the liquid crystal layer and the light guide plate of the backlight unit and which controls light passing through the liquid crystal layer, and a color filter layer which materializes color of light passed through the liquid crystal layer.